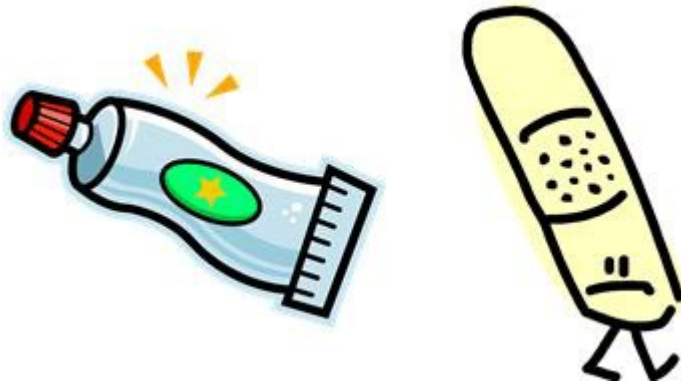


ADVICE FOR CHILDREN HAVING AN OPERATION

You are coming to stay in hospital while you have an operation. You can bring some grown-ups with you, like mummy and daddy or the person who normally looks after you at home

What will happen before my operation?

- Some doctors will come and see you and talk to you.
- You can wear your own night clothes or you will be given a special gown to wear for your operation.
- You have to wear a special bracelet with your name on.
- You might have some 'magic cream' put on your hand where a plastic tube called a cannula will go.
- The cream is put onto your skin and then a soft see-through plaster is put over the top. It is left on your skin for about one hour. While the cream is working you can still play and use your hands.



When the cream has worked, the soft plaster will be taken off and the cream wiped away. The area of your skin the cream has been touching will be 'numb'. This means, when this patch of skin is touched you will not be able to feel it.

Where will I go for my operation?

- When it is time for your operation you will be pushed on your bed. Your bed has wheels on it to make it easy to push. Sometimes the grown up who is with you can sit on your bed and have a ride too.

- You can take your favourite toy or comforter with you if you like.

- The first room that you go to is called the anaesthetic room. This is the room where you will go to sleep. One grown up can come in this room with you, as well as your nurse, until you are fast asleep.

What happens after my operation?

- After your operation you will wake up in a big room called recovery.
- A nurse wearing 'special' pyjamas will look after you.
- When you start to wake up, the nurse looking after you will get any grown-ups who are with you to come to recovery to sit with you.
- When you wake up you may have a mask over your mouth and nose giving you some special air called oxygen.
- The nurse will want to see how well you are breathing. To find this out they will put a soft, spongy 'peg' on your finger or toe.

- On the monitor some numbers will appear and will show how well you are breathing air into your body. It will also show how fast your heart is beating.

What happens if I feel sore when I wake up?

- If you feel sore when you wake up tell the nurse looking after you. The nurse can give you some medicine to make you feel better.

What happens if I feel sick when I wake up?

- If you feel sick when you wake up tell your nurse and they can give you some medicine to help make you feel better.

When can I go back to the ward?

- When you are awake and feeling comfortable.
- The nurse looking after you in recovery will take you back to the ward.
- You will be pushed back to the ward on your bed.

For further information, please speak to your ward nurse.

